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FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST - 7.45PM
WIDNES VIKINGS -
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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park, the home of Sheffield Eagles Rugby by League Football club, Widnes Vikings their CEO Phil Finney, their directors, their backroom staff, coach Kieron Purtell, players and of course their guests and spectators.

We hope you have a good evening at the Olympic Legacy park in what is a practice run for the final of the 1895 Cup which is to be played at Wembley on the 24th of August 2019 between both of today's teams.

However I don't believe today's game will be anything like the final at Wembley where the adrenalin and excitement of the day will have to be taken into consideration.

May I congratulate the whole of the Widnes team backroom staff and officials of the Widnes Vikings for getting to the final of the 1895 cup as it has not been the easiest of seasons for them.

They did extremely well to come away with the spoils in their semi-final against Leigh Centurions in what was a great game and I am certain that Leigh are smarting after investing so much money (right up to last week) in the team to get to Wembley.

Well, now to last Sunday afternoon in what was the worst weather we have experienced since we returned to the city at the Olympic Park Stadium.

May I firstly apologise to the spectators of both Batley bulldogs and Sheffield Eagles for getting absolutely saturated in the rain which I can only describe as horrendous! We are unfortunately suffering unusual weather



countrywide and as I wright this article there are flood warnings still being transmitted on the radio.

May I thank the RFL and their CEO Mr Ralph Rimmer who attended the game last Sunday and he like the rest of us suffered from the rain.

Now the part of the article I have been waiting to wright.

Last Sunday afternoon in the worst rain for months we took on and won against Batley Bulldogs in the semi-final of the 1895 cup and we won, we came away with the spoils WE ARE GOING TO WEMBLEY on the 24th August for the first time in 21 years.

We are to face todays opponents in the final and may I congratulate all the squad the backroom staff for all the hard work and effort that has been shown both on and of the playing field by each and every one of you it is a great achievement and I am so proud of you all.

The game was not an easy game and both teams defended well but we managed to break through their great defence and convert three times which gave us the win.

Tickets for Wembley are available from the club and may I advise all our spectators to get your tickets from the club as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Enjoy the game

Very Best Regards

Chairman - Chris Noble MBE



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TUBBY TALK

It is back to the bread and butter of the league tonight after last weekend's cup exploits, and we welcome Widnes knowing this will be another huge game as we look to kick-start our quest for a top five finish.

Whilst both sides will face each other at Wembley, we cannot think about that too much yet because we know there is still something to fight for in terms of our league position.

It is a tall order, but if we can win our remaining five games then I believe there's still a chance, and this team have shown we are capable of such a run following our start to the current season.

Widnes are a very good side, and they deservedly put us to the sword in the reverse fixture.

We didn't turn up on the night, but this time around, with some momentum from last weekend's win, we are aiming to be much more competitive.

Thanks to the fans for taking us over the line against Batley.

The noise really was on another level, and to see so many jubilant faces, despite the weather, was quite a sight at full-time.

Taking this club back to Wembley is very special, especially considering what we have been through over the past two years or so.



The players have a potentially once in a lifetime opportunity to play at Wembley, it is something I'm sure they'll cherish.

It is also special for you, the fans, who have stuck by us through some really dark days. I can't thank you enough.

With what was at stake last weekend it was always going to be a nervy game.

I thought we were excellent at times though, especially our defence. To restrict Batley to no tries and just two points was a fantastic effort from the boys. We'll be looking to build on that display tonight against Widnes.

Head Coach - Mark Aston

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COMMERCIAL CORNER



Good evening and welcome back to The OLP and welcome to all the Players, Directors and Fans from Widnes.

I would like to welcome all our guest to the game today and specifically John Yates and guests from the AMRC and Bernie Hunter and his guests. Thank you very much for your support

I have to start with eth win last Sunday vs Batley. What a game! Thank you Brian Smith from the Sheffield Steeldogs for sponsoring the game. Please is Steeldogs Player James Spurr presenting Ben Hellowell with his Man of The Match Award. It was also great to do a shirt swap with them.

What an achievement it is to get to Wembley. There has been much said about the 1895 cup but whatever your thoughts, no one can ever take this experience away from the team and the club. The exposure we

will get is already yielding positive outcomes om eth commercial side of things and we will have a couple of new patches on the kit for the game.

As happens in this world we welcome our 1895 final opponents to The OLP this evening for our Championship game.

We have now set a date for our end of season dinner. This will be held at Genting Club on Friday 13th September. Details of the event will be online very soon so please let myself or Liam know if you would like to reserve any places at the event and celebrate the positive season we have had.

As promised I wanted to give you some news on our shirts for next Season. GRI, & Buckingham Insurance had already committed to multi year agreements so will continue for 2020. Huge thank you to both for the continued support. Albion Detection, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce & Claydon Accountancy have also renewed as have CTJM Paving on the shorts. A huge thank you to all of these for the continued support into 2020 and beyond.

In the last home programme I will be able to confirm our final shirt sponsors for 2020 ahead of the kit launch towards the end of the year.

As always, If you come across anyone or know of any businesses who would be both interested in a pitch board or interested in getting involved with us further on a commercial basis, please ask them to get in contact.

Commercial Director - Mark Hannigan



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FROM THE OFFICE

Well, where do I begin?

It's been a crazy week but start with the game last week. I've watched it back during a quiet but brief Wednesday evening. I couldn't watch it live on Sunday, for two reasons, with it being a Cup match, it's a Shared gate which requires a lot more work with working out gate receipts etc. but also, I was unbelievably nervous.

In my makeshift match day office in the cabins next to the changing rooms, I kept one eye on proceedings on the OurLeague App but the problem was, there was a 20 or so second delay between that and proceedings happening live on the pitch.

With the Batley drum and Eagles drum battling it out in what sounded a great atmosphere I wasn't sure which team the cheers and cries of jubilation. When they occurred, I quickly checked the app, the Eagles usually ball in hand so was hopeful it was for us before it was confirmed when the music began on the PA system.

I had a quick celebration with Mark and the local players at what was an excellent 30th birthday bash at Niagara for Sheffield Hawks, a great night and shows rugby league is alive

and well in that corner of the city.

Since then it's been ticket sales, attempting to bus coaches which has proved difficult, safety and operation meetings at the RFL at Media City and much more which all comes with a trip to Wembley Stadium.

Regardless if we take 10, 100 or 1,000 supporters down to the Capital, there is so many requirements, rule and regulations that come with a trip to the National Stadium, many of which I didn't comprehend.

I'll be busy on the day but will have to keep reminding myself to enjoy the occasion too as it will be a fabulous experience for myself personally. After four difficult years, fighting to keep the club alive, bringing the club back to city and the difficulties we've faced and continue to do playing out of a makeshift ground here at the Olympic Legacy Park in its current guise.

I, the Directors and everyone else associated with the club have fought and continue to fight for this club for one reason, you, our supporters. You may not be many, but we do it for you. Like us, you've had it tough and can't thank you all for rallying round when it looked like the doors might be closed for good and sticking with us when on and off the pitch things have been dire. I hope all of you enjoy the day – it's for you.

Tonight though, let's keep the winning ways up & I'll see you at the Shay next weekend.

General Manager -
Liam Claffey

WEMBLEY STADIUM 24 AUGUST 2019 KO: 17:30



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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Tonight we have a tough challenge on our hands against Widnes, who we struggled with the last time we faced them back at the end of May.

It's now turned into an even more interesting challenge with this being, essentially, a preview of the 1895 Cup Final.

Both teams should be coming in off a high having won our respective semi-finals, particularly for us with an outstanding defensive performance bouncing back from a less than stellar outing over the channel in Toulouse.

One thing we will definitely have to do is channel that solid defensive attitude. If we can do that and keep to our principles on attack, we can make this a really good game and have a great chance of coming away with the win.

Preparation wise we've had a short turnaround. I think this will actually play in our favour this time round with the players still feeding off the buzz of earning themselves a trip to Wembley.

That buzz has been present at training this week with the players having a bit more fun, feeling a little less sore and generally enjoying training a bit more than you normally would this deep into the season where everything is just about ticking along and trying to stay fit.

The quick turn around also means we have to focus again quickly. If we had longer up to the next game it could easily allow the guys to get caught up and distracted thinking about the 1895 Cup final, but I think we've refocussed well and are ready for the challenge ahead.



I know I've talked about not being distracted by thoughts of a trip to Wembley, but I think it's really important to touch on just what an achievement this is.

From my perspective, seeing the work that's gone in from these guys behind the scenes in conditioning, the weights room etc. it's a great reward for them and I'm incredibly proud of them and what they have achieved.

We still have plenty to concentrate on within the league though to try to finish on a high and sneak into the playoffs, and that starts tonight against Widnes.

Player Performance Manager - Simon Vardy





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GARETH WALKER



You only needed to take a look at the final hooter scenes at Sheffield and Leigh last weekend to see that the 1895 Cup has value as a concept.

The Eagles' gritty win over Batley and Widnes' thrilling triumph at the Centurions were greeted with unmitigated glee by players and supporters alike.

That is what it means for people to get to Wembley, something both clubs and their fans have not experienced for over two decades.

Now Sheffield and Widnes will take their place on the country's biggest stage in the inaugural 1895 Cup final, to be held after the main event of the Challenge Cup final.

That scheduling has been one of the main criticisms of this season's competition, with most feeling that a slot before the cup final would be more attractive to the clubs involved.

The other has been the inclusion of midweek

fixtures in the early rounds, leading some clubs to take it far less seriously than others to focus on matters in the league.

Perhaps the moving forward of the early rounds to pre-season could be a way around that.

Both issues need looking at for next year, with well-placed observer's concerns taken into account.

But the competition looks to have real value for clubs at this level, and it would be great to see the final galvanise both the Eagles and Vikings after difficult times in recent years.

Off the field, it was great to see Doncaster chief executive Carl Hall recognised for his services to the sport as he started his new role vice president of the RFL last week. It went under the radar somewhat due to the profile of Tony Adams, but the appointment of Hall should not be overlooked.

The New Zealand-born 49 year old has dedicated the vast majority of his adult life to rugby league in this country after joining the Dons as a promising teenager over 30 years ago.

Spells at Bradford Northern, Leeds and Featherstone followed, with brief stints at Hull KR and York also thrown in, before he later turned his attentions to a career in administration in South Yorkshire. In 2009 he helped put together a group to save the Dons and has been involved ever since, running the club on a day-to-day basis.

Hall has always been a passionate yet considered voice on the game's key issues - particularly during the political upheavals of last year - which should serve him well in his new central role.

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WEMBLEY DETAILS

The Eagles are back at Wembley for the first time in 21 years!

We will take on the Widnes Vikings at 5.30pm in the AB Sun-decks 1895 Cup Final on Saturday 24 August 2019 as part of a double header with the Coral Challenge Cup Final at 3.00pm which will be contested by St. Helens and Warrington Wolves.

Please read the below information before purchasing your tickets.

Tickets are now on General Sale via the club website at sheffield eagles.com, our offices at the John Banner Centre and over the phone on 0114 398 1998.

Tickets will allow entry to both the Challenge Cup Final & the 1895 Cup Final.

Seats are fully allocated meaning supporters will be given a specific seat. Please be aware of this when buying for a group, as any tickets will only be placed together when purchased together at the same time.

When buying online, the best available seats will be automatically selected when purchasing from the current available block in each price category. Specific seat or blocks cannot be selected.

There is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

The club will be selling seats in Block 118 & 199 initially. Further tickets subject to sales will then be released in other adjacent blocks (117 & 116).

Tickets are Cat 4 Tickets and are priced as



follows:

Adults - £50

Concessions - £37.50

Juniors - £15

We strongly urge supporters to purchase direct from the Eagles as we receive 25% percentage from every ticket sales which will greatly assist the club financially.

Please note: Concessions are Senior Citizens aged 65 and over, Students upon production of a valid student card and Serving Military with valid ID.

No under 2s are permitted to access Wembley stadium under their own ground regulations except in hospitality areas.

Wheelchair supporters are also entitled to a complementary carer ticket. Please contact the RFL to purchase.

Coach Travel

This is £27.50 for Juniors and Concessions and £32 for Adults.

Details as follows

09:00 - Pick up from outside the Penny Black Pub in Sheffield City Centre

09:30 - Pick up from Meadowhall

13:30 - Arrive at Wembley Stadium

20:15 - Depart Wembley Stadium

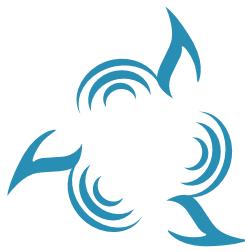
There will be comfort stop on the trip to and from the Stadium at a service. Back the Eagles as we return to Wembley!



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Corey Makelaim

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COREY MAKELIM

DF: Corey, we come into today's game in great spirits after that 1895 Cup semi-final victory over Batley Bulldogs. How were your feelings coming away from that one, imagine that was a lot of emotion?

CM: Yeah emotions were on a high as we did speak in the week about wanting to get to Wembley. It's all about trying to ride the wave that brings, try and make the top five and I think this Friday can be a preview of what it's going to be like at Wembley too.

DF: To hold Batley to just two points was vital, especially in those conditions as well?

CM: That was very important for us and we did speak about it in the weeks before, especially going into the Toulouse game, about how vital our defence is. Batley did well with their defence as well so credit has to go to them as well. We have a couple of things we need to work on but to hold them to two points was great.

DF: Although we did not have had the best attacking performance to date, we still showed signs of quality throughout didn't we?

CM: I think we would have panicked before but we didn't this time which shows our patience and maturity. We're not pushing a pass, we're keeping hold of it and a positive for us is that we had so many back-to-back sets. I still think we have to be a bit more squeaky clean in some areas.

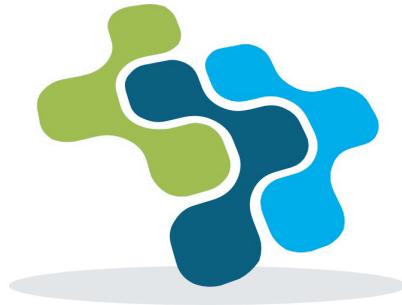
DF: Of course we take on Widnes at Wembley and also here tonight. How important is it to right the wrongs from our first game against the Vikings?



CM: They have found some form too so it will be good to right those wrongs. It's nice to have a little preview of them before we head to Wembley too.

DF: From here on in, Tubbs will be looking out for standout players who he will be wanting to pick for that Wembley date. Does that count as extra motivation for the boys?

CM: I think it does because we have some of the London boys in there too. Some of the boys will be stepping up and I don't know if a few will be rested as some do have niggly injuries. Everyone will be doing their best to get into that Wembley side as it is such a big occasion.



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COREY MAKELIM

DF: Tubbs has also said we need to win every league game from now till the end of the season to have a chance of finishing in the top five. There are some tough games in there but I guess a 100% record is the target set by the lads, too?

CM: It definitely is. It would be great to finish in the top five considering how our season went last year. I think on our day we can beat anyone so as I said, it's about getting our game together and hopefully getting to that top five.

DF: Since you've been at Sheffield, you've played at full-back, stand-off and now at hooker. How much have you enjoyed it?

CM: I have really enjoyed it as it has opened up my game. I enjoy tackling but it's all about getting the fitness side of it. Everywhere I've played has helped my game really.





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GETTING TO KNOW

Tightest Player?

Definitely Blake, he's the tightest human! James Davey bought me a pint in Toulouse, must have got lucky!

Favourite Latest Film?

Bohemian Rhapsody

Rugby League Idol?

Laurie Daley

Best Ground played at?

Suncorp Stadium

Come Dine with Me – Meal you'd make & three guests?

I'd pick Mike Tyson, LeBron James and Ric Flair.

Starte bruschetta with balsamic vinegar, main medium-rare sirloin steak with mixed salad & some sweet potato mash. For dessert, lava cake.

Best RL Moment?

Playing at the World Cup for the USA.



Corey Makelis

Number: 16
Position: Utility

Height: 5ft 7'
Weight: 95kg

Twitter:
N/A

Funniest Player?

Ben Blackmore,
hands down!

Best Trainer?

Oliver Daives

Worst Dressed?

Sonny Esslemont with his red Air Max 95s that he always wears to training!

City Break or Beach Holiday?

Beach Holiday obviously, I'm from Australia!

Amateur Club?

Ashcroft Stallions

TODAY'S TEAMS



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
1. <i>Josh Guzdek</i>	●	●	●
2. <i>Ryan Millar</i>	●	●	●
4. <i>Jason Crookes</i>	●	●	●
5. <i>Ben Blackmore</i>	●	●	●
6. <i>Pat Walker</i>	●	●	●
7. <i>Anthony Thackeray</i>	●	●	●
8. <i>Pat Moran</i>	●	●	●
9. <i>James Davey</i>	●	●	●
10. <i>Matt James</i>	●	●	●
11. <i>Brad Knowles</i>	●	●	●
12. <i>Joel Farrell</i>	●	●	●
13. <i>Aaron Brown</i>	●	●	●
14. <i>Greg Burns</i>	●	●	●
15. <i>Oliver Davies</i>	●	●	●
16. <i>Corey Makelim</i>	●	●	●
17. <i>Shaun Pick</i>	●	●	●
18. <i>James Glover</i>	●	●	●
19. <i>Sonny Esselmont</i>	●	●	●
21. <i>Blake Broadbent</i>	●	●	●
22. <i>Paddy Burns</i>	●	●	●
23. <i>Rory Dixon</i>	●	●	●
25. <i>Lewis Taylor</i>	●	●	●
26. <i>Joslin Landu</i>	●	●	●
29. <i>Ben Hellewell</i>	●	●	●
31. <i>Nathan Mason</i>	●	●	●

Referee: *G. Dolan*
Touch Judges: *C. Worsley & A. Martin*

WIDNES VIKINGS

T G DG

●	●	●	1. <i>Olly Ashall-Bott</i>
●	●	●	2. <i>Ryan Ince</i>
●	●	●	4. <i>Anthony Gelling</i>
●	●	●	5. <i>Jack Owens</i>
●	●	●	6. <i>Danny Craven</i>
●	●	●	7. <i>Tom Gilmore</i>
●	●	●	8. <i>James Chapelhow</i>
●	●	●	11. <i>Harrison Hansen</i>
●	●	●	12. <i>Chris Dean</i>
●	●	●	13. <i>Hep Cahill</i>
●	●	●	15. <i>Jordan Johnstone</i>
●	●	●	16. <i>Macgraff Leuluai</i>
●	●	●	17. <i>Sam Wilde</i>
●	●	●	18. <i>Ted Chapelhow</i>
●	●	●	19. <i>Brad Walker</i>
●	●	●	20. <i>Owen Farnworth</i>
●	●	●	21. <i>Joe Lyons</i>
●	●	●	22. <i>Owen Buckley</i>
●	●	●	23. <i>Liam Walsh</i>
●	●	●	24. <i>Keanan Brand</i>
●	●	●	25. <i>Lloyd Roby</i>
●	●	●	26. <i>Dan Norman</i>
●	●	●	27. <i>Sam Freeman</i>
●	●	●	34. <i>Josh Ganson</i>
●	●	●	36. <i>Ellis Robson</i>

Match Commissioner: *D. Milburn*

Time Keeper: *P. Crashley*



@SHEFFIELDDEAGLESRL



SHEFFIELDDEAGLES

1895 CUP SEMI FINAL

28/07/19

The Eagles booked their place in the AB Sundecks 1895 Cup final at Wembley Stadium with an 18-2 victory over Batley Bulldogs at the Olympic Legacy Park.

Tries from Joel Farrell, Jacob Ogden and Oliver Davies were enough for the Eagles to progress to the big smoke and a return to Wembley for the first time since 1998.

A solid defensive performance helped Sheffield along the way, restricting the visitors to just a penalty goal throughout the full 80 minutes.

Ben Hellewell and Nathan Mason came into the Eagles squad for Sonny Esslemont and Rory Dixon and both put in great shifts on dual-registration from London Broncos.

The opening exchanges were dominated by the Bulldogs, who had a couple of opportunities to get over the try line. They did make their way over through Wayne Reittie after three minutes but brilliant defence from Josh Guzdek saw the winger put a foot into touch.

As another Eagles error crept into their game, Batley looked to throw the ball wide once more but Jack Broadbent couldn't hold on to a pass and the ball squirmed into touch.

The Eagles broke the deadlock on 27 minutes as a deft Walker grubber was pounced upon by Farrell, who touched down against his former side. Walker duly added the extras.

Batley responded soon after with their only points of the contest. After winning a penalty 30 metres out from the Eagles line, Louis Jouffret opted to go for the penalty goal which he successfully kicked.

At the break, four points separated the teams – a fair reflection on proceed-

ings.

Sheffield started the second half all guns blazing and they won a goal line dropout in the opening few minutes but couldn't capitalise on the territory.

Batley hardly threatened in the second period due to sloppy turnovers inside their own half, something Matt Diskin lamented in his post-match interview.

However their defence was outstanding for the most part and it did take until the 65th minute for Sheffield to extend their advantage and move a step closer to a Wembley date.

Ogden powered over from close range and Walker goaled for 12-2.

60 seconds remained when Davies burrowed his way to four points, with Walker converting, as the OLP went wild as the Eagles moved 80 minutes away from silverware.



MATCH REPORT

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

18-2

**BATLEY
BULLDOGS**

- 1. *Josh Guzdek*
- 2. *Ryan Millar*
- 27. *Jacob Ogren*
- 29. *Ben Hellewell*
- 5. *Ben Blackmore*
- 6. *Pat Walker*
- 7. *Anthony Thackeray*
- 17. *Shaun Pick*
- 14. *Greg Burns*
- 11. *Brad Knowles*
- 12. *Joel Farrell*
- 15. *Oliver Davies*
- 13. *Aaron Brown*

INTERCHANGE

- 16. *Corey Makelim*
- 21. *Blake Broadbent*
- 31. *Nathan Mason*
- 22. *Paddy Burns*



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**ATTENDANCE
727**



- 1. *David Scott*
- 2. *Wayne Reittie*
- 3. *Sam Smeaton*
- 28. *Jack Broadbent*
- 5. *Johnny Campbell*
- 6. *Louis Jouffret*
- 7. *Dom Brambani*
- 8. *Adam Gledhill*
- 9. *Alistair Leak*
- 17. *Tyler Dickinson*
- 12. *Jack Downs*
- 11. *Dane Manning*
- 24. *Paul Brierley*

INTERCHANGE

- 25. *Lewis Bienek*
- 13. *James Brown*
- 15. *Toby Everett*
- 22. *Sam Wood*

SEMI FINAL SHOTS



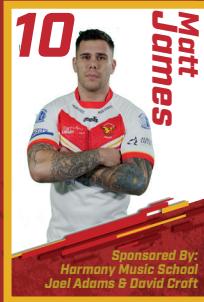


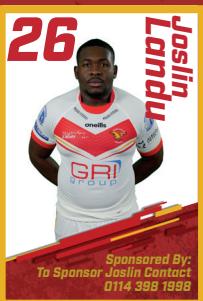
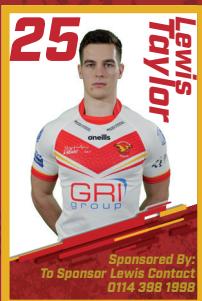
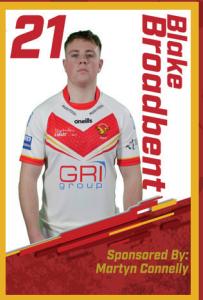
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PLAYER PROFILES





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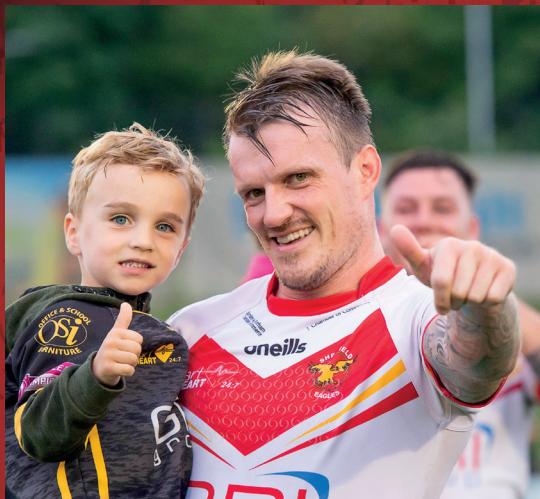
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VIEW FROM THE PARK



Welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park for tonight's Wembley dress rehearsal!

Firstly, congratulations to Widnes Vikings on beating Leigh Centurions in the semi-final of the AB Sundecks 1895 Cup. A club, like the Eagles, who have gone through turmoil in the past and are now going to enjoy their day in the sun at the country's national stadium.

Let's go back to that semi final date with Batley Bulldogs. No tries conceded, just two points shipped in a marvellous rearguard performance. It was exactly what we needed in the conditions as points were always going to be hard to come by and that proved to be the case.

We needed a calm head to guide us around the park and with both Patch Walker and Anthony Thackeray at the helm, we had that in abundance. Josh Guzdek impressed once again as our number one. I may be biased but he has been one of the signings of the season in the Championship. Solid under

the high ball and chips into the attacking line with a vital pass time after time, it wouldn't be a surprise to see him play at Super League level sooner rather than later.

The Broncos boys also came up with the goods. Nathan Mason had his best game in Red and Gold to date, Jacob Ogden picked up a well deserved try and Ben Hellewell was as powerful as ever when taking the ball in. I tweeted after the game about dual-registration and how it has its critics. But the Eagles have landed on solid gold in the past three seasons with St Helens and now the Broncos backing us up.

Mark Aston has said we need to win all our remaining games to be in with a chance of reaching the top five. That is most certainly the case but with a Wembley carrot hanging down for the players to snatch at, they need to be on form heading into that so who says we can't have a little run from now till the end of the season?

We will have to be on the top of our game against a Widnes side who, despite their off-field problems earlier on this year – are still a dangerous side and showed exactly that when we visited the Halton Stadium.

A big welcome back to Jack Owens too, a key part of our 2017 team, and he will be on cloud nine after a stunning try against the Centurions last time out.

This is bound to be a good one so let's get behind the boys and cheer them on to a victory! Come on Eagles!!

By Dan Fowler

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TODAY'S VISITORS

It's difficult to know where to start when looking at tonight's visitors to the Olympic Legacy Park.

The club's troubles earlier this season have been well documented and so we won't go over all ground here and we will stick to the positives. The new regime in charge of the Vikings seem like they have the best intentions of the club and sport within the town at heart and they and their supporters should be applauded for their efforts to ensure the famous club survived.

Whilst here at the Eagles we will be grateful to see just over four figures heading down to Wembley, the Vikings (at time of writing) have already sold over 3,000 tickets and hopefully their appearance in the 1895 Cup Final and the financial gains that come from this can help them further as they seek to rebuild.

Turning to on-field matters, if you weren't too busy celebrating our triumph in our AB Sun-decks Semi Final against Batley Bulldogs, hopefully you watched the Vikings doing likewise against the Centurions at the Leigh Sport Village.

What a fantastic game, a tense, close affair and some great skill on show considering the 'Chemics' would have been seen as huge underdogs what with Mr Beaumont opening his wallet again to bring in a flurry of late signings to ensure he got to walk his team

out at Wembley as he openly stated in the press in the lead up to the match. Perhaps his quotes helped spur the Vikings on to claim a famous victory? Who knows!

Anyway, as we look ahead to tonight's 1895 Cup Final dress rehearsal the Vikings despite their issues off the field have maintained an excellent squad that boast Super League talent and a host of young, exciting & local talent.

Eagles fans will be aware of the exploits of Widnes' lad Jack Owens who proved excellent during his short stay at Sheffield back in 2017. A prolific goal kicker he has been in excellent form of late for the Vikings out on the wing in his number 5 jersey and scored the winning try with a great passage of play last weekend.

Kieron Purtill has made four changes to the squad tonight as Anthony Gelling, Chris Dean and Hep Cahill drop out through injury, while Patrick Ah Van has come to the end of his four-week deal. Olly Ashall-Bott, Ellis Robson, Owen Farnworth and Sam Freeman enter the fray for the visitors .

Power in the forwards comes in the form of towering twin brother Ed & Jay Chapelhow whilst Danny Craven will look to guide the visitors around the fast 3G pitch tonight, which of course they are used to at their Halton Stadum home.





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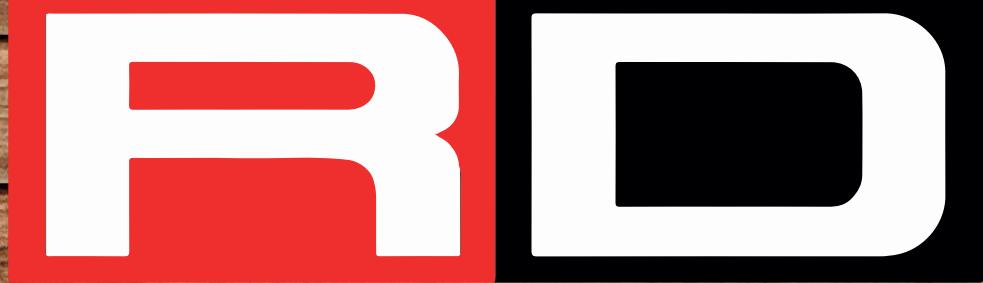
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